

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious inconsistency. Claim 1 has been amended to improve its form and to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, the latter having been indicated as allowable.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 4-7 have been amended to improve form and accuracy.

It is now believed that as amended, claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-7 patentably distinguish over the art of record for the reasons stated by the examiner.

New claims 8 and 9 have been added. Claim 8 includes reference to the pipette tip magazine comprising a rectangular plate molded from a polymeric resin reinforced with a fibrous material. It is respectfully submitted that the references of record do not disclose or suggest this feature, making claim 8 and its dependent claim 9 also patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:



The second full paragraph on page 1 has been amended as follows:

-- 2. Description of the Prior Art

This invention is especially adapted for, although not limited to, use with the PLATEMATE™ pipetting systems marketed by Matrix Technologies Corp. of Hudson, New Hampshire, U.S.A. Such systems employ rigid metal magazines [such as aluminum], for the pipette tips. The [steel] metal magazines are expensive components and are thus continually reused in successive pipetting cycles. Magazine reuse inevitably requires laboratory personnel to frequently empty and refill them with fresh pipettes. This has been found to be a time consuming, inefficient and cumbersome procedure, but one that was deemed necessary because of the belief that only steel magazines could provide the rigidity required to resist deflection during the pipetting process. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) For use in an automated pipetting system having a pipetting
- 2 chamber with a generally U-shaped ledge, a pipette tip magazine adapted for insertion into and

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3 removal from an operative position in said chamber supported on said ledge, said magazine
4 comprising a generally rectangular plate having an undercut edge [surrounding] bordering an
5 inner region, said edge being configured to be supported on said ledge, and said inner region
6 having an array of through openings for vertically receiving and retaining pipette tips, said
7 plate being molded from a [polymeric] polycarbonate resin filled with glass fiber and having an
8 inherent stiffness such that when supported on said ledge, a downward force of up to about
9 1000 Newtons applied to the inner region will produce a downward deflection of said plate at
10 [said geometric center] the point of force application of not more than 0.51mm.

1 4. (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim [3] 1, wherein the amount of
2 said glass fiber is approximately 20 to 40% by weight of [the] said polycarbonate resin.

1 5. (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1, wherein the area of said
2 undercut edge is between 10 to 15% of the total area of [the] said plate.

1 6. (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim 1 [wherein said magazines]
2 further comprising downwardly protruding bosses on the underside thereof, said bosses being
3 configured and dimensioned to accommodate stacking of said magazines when filled with
4 pipette tips [are stackable].

1 7. (Amended) The pipette tip magazine of claim [2] 1, wherein [the] said
2 magazine has a flat upper surface.

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New claims 8 and 9 have been added as follows:

1 8. (New) For use in an automated pipetting system having a pipetting chamber
2 with a generally U-shaped ledge, a pipette tip magazine adapted for insertion into and removal
3 from an operative position in said chamber supported on said ledge, said magazine comprising
4 a generally rectangular plate having an undercut edge bordering an inner region, said edge
5 being configured to be supported on said ledge, and said inner region having an array of
6 through openings for vertically receiving and retaining pipette tips, said plate being molded
7 from a polycarbonate resin filled with a glass fiber.

1 9. (New) The pipette tip magazine of claim 8 wherein the amount of said fibrous
2 material is approximately 20 to 40% by weight of said polymeric resin.